

to appear more frequently. If this is not so, the three uncommon forms will continue to be as rare on the Subcontinent as they have been in the past.

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PETER SMETACEK  
Jones Estate, P.O. Bhimtal,  
Nainital 263 136.  
Uttaranchal, India.

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29. ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SATURNID MOTHS *SONTHONNAXIA MAENAS* (DOUBLEDAY) AND *LOEPA KATINKA* (WESTWOOD)

While working on an Environmental Impact Assessment project at Kudremukh National Park (KNP), Mr. S.A. Hussain recorded two Saturnid moths, which were photographed by his colleagues and brought for identification. The moths were identified as *Sonthonnaxia maenas* (Doubleday) (syn. *Actias maenas*) and *Loepa katinka* (Westwood).

According to Arora & Gupta (Memoirs of the Zoological Survey of India, Vol. 16, Part I, 1979), the distribution of the moths *Sonthonnaxia maenas* and *Loepa katinka* is northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh), Sikkim and West Bengal. *S. maenas* is reported from South Andamans, while *L. katinka* is also found in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The present record of

these species from Kudremukh National Park (KNP), Karnataka is an extension in their distribution range, it is interesting to note that both the species are mainly found in the foothills of the Himalaya and areas of heavy rainfall like south Andaman and places in Tamil Nadu. Their occurrence in the KNP shows the geographical link in the faunal distribution.

*Loepa katinka* is also found in other parts of Karnataka. It has been photographed in Matheran (Maharashtra). (I. Kehimkar pers. comm.)

February 28, 2000 NARESH CHATURVEDI  
Bombay Natural History Society,  
Hornbill House, S.B. Singh Road,  
Mumbai 400 023, Maharashtra, India.